

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTE ON THE GENERIC NAMES *PTERONOTUS* AND *DERMONOTUS*.

In these proceedings* Dr. Theo. Gill has recently asserted that the use of the generic name *Pteronotus* as applied by Gray in 1838 to a genus of Phyllostomid bats is invalidated by the previous existence of a *Pteronotus* Rafinesque, proposed in 1815 as a substitute for *Pteropus*.† He therefore replaces the *Pteronotus* of Gray by the new name *Dermonotus*. After examining Rafinesque's work, I find myself forced to a different conclusion. Rafinesque enumerated fourteen genera of bats: 1, *Rhinolophus* Cuv.; 2, *Phyllostoma* Geof.; 3, *Vampyrum* R. do. Geof. sans queue; 4, *Megaderma* Geof.; 5, *Pteropus* Bris. Erxl.; 6, *Eidolon* R. do. à queue; 7, *Pteronotus*, R. do. sp.; 8, *Cephalotes* Geof.; 9, *Tadaris* R.; 10, *Vespertilio* L. Geof.; 11, *Nycterus* Geof.; 12, *Noctilio* Geof.; 13, *Molossus* Geof.; 14, *Atalapha* R. It is evident that he intended *Pteronotus* not as a substitute for *Pteropus*, but as the name of a new genus based on certain species of "*Eidolon*" or *Pteropus*, the list of abbreviations at the end of the volume (page 216) explaining that "sp. do." means "species of the preceding genus." As no characters are suggested for this genus, the name *Pteronotus* of Rafinesque is a nomen nudum without status in nomenclature. Gray was therefore free to apply the term to the Phyllostomid genus; and the new name *Dermonotus* is not required.
—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

SYMBOS, A SUBSTITUTE FOR *SCAPHOCEROS*.

Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, of the University of Colorado, has kindly called my attention to the fact that the generic name, *Scaphoceros*, which I proposed recently (Smiths. Misc. Coll., Quart. Issue, XLVIII, pp. 173-158,

* Vol. XIV, p. 177, September 25, 1901.

† Analyse de la Nature, p. 54.